No. 2117—Vol. 81

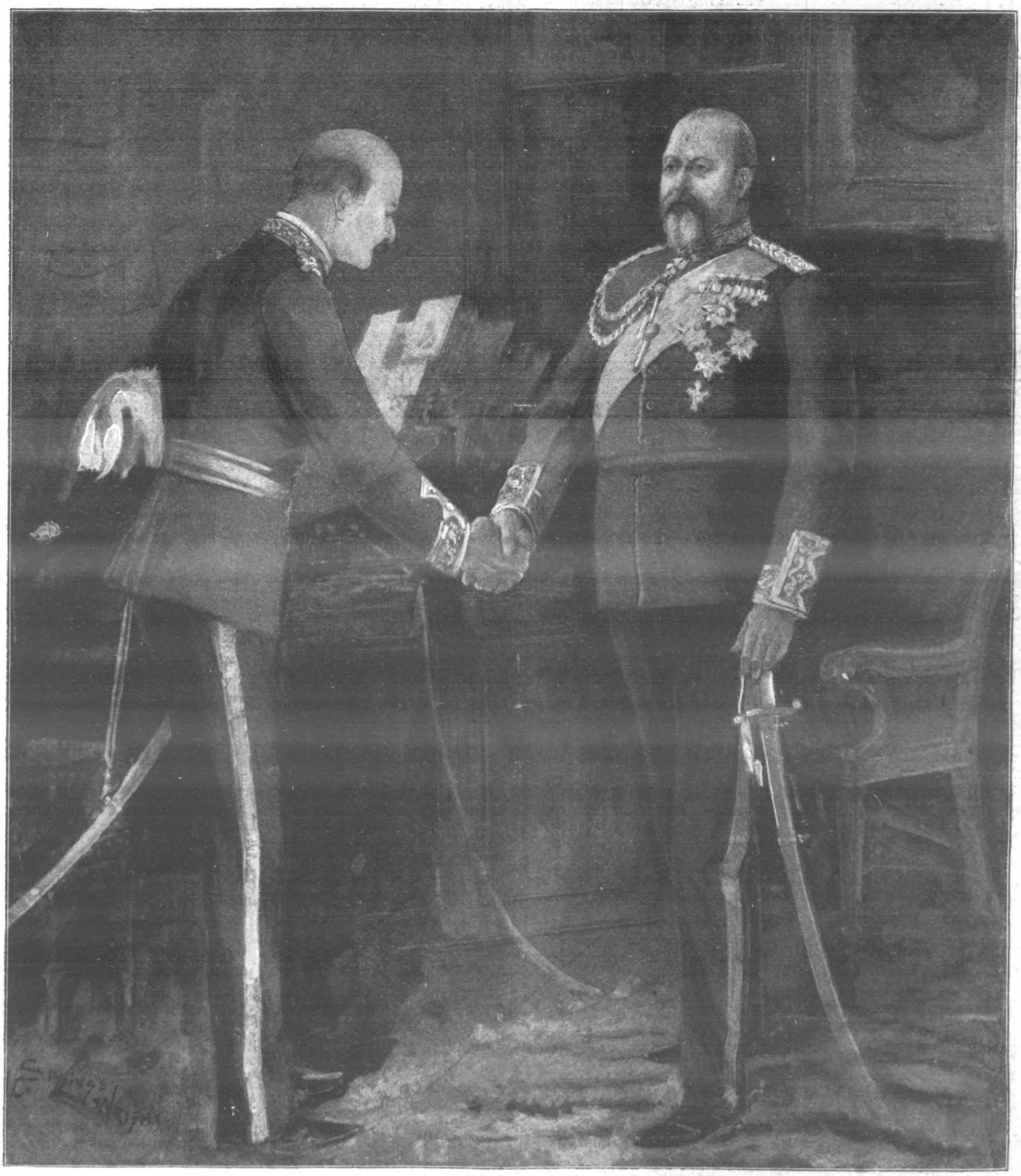
THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER AND ILLUSTRATED TIMES

December 21, 1901

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 198, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the County of London, by The Illustrated London News and Sketch, Ltd., 198, Strand, aforesaid.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL READERS OF THE "P.I.P."



HIS MAJESTY WISHING "B.-P." A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD-SPEED.

See "Talk of London."

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THE CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER
OF THE
PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER
(*Published on December 14*)
CONTAINING A
HANDSOME COLOURED PLATE
AND A
STIRRING STORY OF THE WAR,
BY JOHN LATEY,
WAS OUT OF PRINT, AS USUAL,
The First Day of Publication.

Talk of London.

—:o:—

THE date of the Coronation is fixed for June 26 next year. The month of roses, with its long days, and the great chance of fine, summer-like weather—for if the sun does not shine in June, when can we hope for it?—has been fitly chosen for the crowning of our good and gracious King and Queen. It is close upon a year since the passing of the beloved old Queen, and during that time we have had ample proof that King Edward is not going to neglect the solemn duties which have devolved upon him as head of our great Empire. The idea that Kings and Queens spent their days in idleness has long been exploded. The mere business details of their high position involve an amount of mental and bodily fatigue of which few of their subjects have any idea, and

King Edward

is not the man to relegate any of his duties to any member of his household. Nothing which can be done to-day is postponed by him or by the Queen until a more convenient season, and by following that most excellent rule, duties do not accumulate until there is an unmanageable heap of them, which it is difficult to reduce to order. It is amazing the amount of work which is entailed by the Coronation. It seems as if it ought to be an easy matter for two people to have crowns set upon their heads; and if a coronation consisted in that little function only, it would be easy enough; but the King and his advisers have to consult together in order to decide what old ceremonies are to be retained, and how many can be dispensed with without spoiling the effect of the whole. One great thing about the Coronation is the amount of employment it will give to skilled men and women in the preparation of robes and dresses and emblems, etc. It is so long since there has been a Coronation that nothing that was used then is of any use now. Then, when the day draws near, there will be the erection of stands to view the procession, the decoration of the streets, and the letting of houses and windows. We must all earnestly hope that nothing will occur to oblige the ceremony to be postponed; and if, by a happy change of mind and purpose on the part of the misguided and ill-advised men who keep on the war, Peace should be proclaimed before June next year, we should have cause for great rejoicing. It may come—who can tell?

His Majesty Received Major-General Baden-Powell

at Marlborough House on Dec. 10, to take leave of him on his return to South Africa. The interview lasted a considerable time, and "B.-P.," who was in full Major-General's uniform, was looking very fit and well. The General left London on Saturday morning, and was greeted by an enormous crowd of people, including passengers for the *Saxon* and their friends. Before leaving Waterloo Station the dog known as "London Jack" was led to the General by Miss Wilkins, the dog's custodian. The gallant officer patted and "shook hands" with "London Jack," afterwards placing a Christmas-box in his bag. General Baden-Powell said that the South African Constabulary were doing exceedingly good work, respecting which he had received complimentary letters from Lord Kitchener. As to the General's police force, at present 7500 men have been enlisted in England; there are 1200 Canadians, and 1000 men have joined in South Africa. When asked how long he was going out for this time, he replied that he should like to see the war through. He was delighted with the heartiness and genuineness of the reception accorded him everywhere, and desired through the Press to express his acknowledgment.

MAJOR-GENERAL BRUCE HAMILTON:
WHO HAS BEEN THANKED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR HIS RECENT SUCCESSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.
From a Portrait by Allan Stewart.

Lord Rosebery at Chesterfield.

Lord Rosebery received a great ovation from the Chesterfield Liberal Association on Monday, and developed at length the policy which he commended to the Liberal Party and the country. The Liberal Party was now free from its Irish alliance, and it should start with a clean slate; advancing not too rapidly for the country. He had no clear impression of the means by which it was to be reunited. But it must not even indirectly dissociate itself from the new sentiment of Empire, which filled the nation, and which was a passion of affection and family feeling. Its watchwords should be efficiency in the Army and Navy, in Education, and the neglected subjects of the Housing of the Poor and Temperance.

The Nations of Europe,

said Lord Rosebery, hated us, notwithstanding the correct attitude of their Governments, and in this he saw a contingent danger. He attributed this hatred in part to the neglect of the Ministry to show that this was not a war of greed, and to the tactless speeches of Mr. Chamberlain. With regard to the situation in South Africa, he said he could agree

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY, K.G.

with the Derby resolution only on the subject of the concentration camps. The Government could not make advances, but should listen to overtures from the Boers, and he recommended a liberal amnesty and a commission to settle the country, hastening representative government. Finally, Lord Rosebery offered his services to the country, appealing from Parliament and a distracted Opposition to public opinion.

General Bruce Hamilton

has been giving the Boers a very warm time lately, and the achievements of his columns are all the more gratifying as showing that British officers and men are at last learning to beat the enemy at their own game. The fact that twice in one week General Hamilton's force covered over fifty miles in twenty-four hours points to a wonderful improvement as regards mobility, the essential in which we have been sadly lacking heretofore. If Bruce Hamilton's tactics are only adopted by other British officers, and executed with the same masterly skill, the last of the Boer commandoes will soon be run to earth. Of course, such rapid movements are not practicable in every case, but there is not the slightest doubt that our leaders do not always cover the ground as quickly as they might with a little "hustling." Consequently they are seldom able to surprise a Boer laager as did Bruce Hamilton's men when they pounced upon the encampment of the notorious Piet Viljoen, and captured the commando before they could escape or offer any well-organised resistance. General Bruce Hamilton has set a splendid example, which might be followed with advantage by many who are his seniors in both age and rank. A series of successes like those of the past fortnight would bring the end of the War visibly nearer.

Major-General Walter Kitchener.

A pleasant surprise was in store for the gallant General on his arrival at Southampton on Dec. 6 on the Union-Castle liner *Norman*, when he was met by nine non-commissioned officers of the West Yorks Regiment. The General went out to South Africa as Colonel of that regiment, and commanded it up to the relief of Ladysmith, when he was made a Major-General, and was appointed to a brigade command. As soon as he saw the men of his own regiment, the General hurried ashore

Photo. Stephen Cribb, Southsea.

MAJOR-GENERAL BADEN-POWELL ON BOARD THE S.S. "SAXON" LAST SATURDAY.

READ THE "SKETCH," THE BRIGHTEST AND BEST 6d. WEEKLY.

"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND," AT THE VAUDEVILLE, LAST WEDNESDAY.

and shook hands with them. Thereupon they presented him with an address of welcome, in which they congratulated him on his appointment, and expressed their sympathy at the death of his wife. The General was visibly affected by this thoughtfulness on the part of his non-coms. Subsequently he was photographed surrounded by his former comrades. The photograph is reproduced on another page. General Walter Kitchener expects to return to South Africa in about five weeks' time.

"Truth" Doll Show.

With a record of twenty-two years, this annual show was held at the Albert Hall on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The demands made upon the *Truth* Toy Fund continue to increase. The total number of dolls, large and small, exhibited was not far short of 4000. Most of these had been dressed by the lady readers of *Truth* and their friends in an endless variety of styles and fashions. It will thus be seen that the *Truth* Distribution of Toys has now attained to proportions of such importance, and has so indubitable an effect on the happiness of many thousands of London children, that it is impossible to anticipate without serious concern its discontinuance. There is not a Children's Hospital in London to which *Truth* toys will not be carried: scarcely a workhouse school in the Metropolitan district where *Truth* gifts will not be hailed with acclamation. Who, then, shall attempt to calculate the amount of innocent delight that this twenty-second distribution will cause? And not only to the children, it should be remembered. Their happiness is shared by those to whose efforts and contributions it is due. There is no surer way of securing a Happy Christmas for oneself than by making it merry and joyful for others—

Yuletide brings no joy more welcome,
Be it widely understood,
Than that never-failing pleasure
Which is caused by doing good!

"Bluebell in Fairyland,"

a musical dream-play in two acts, by Seymour Hicks and Walter Slaughter, was produced at the Vaudeville Theatre on Wednesday. Miss Ellaline Terriss was charming as Bluebell. Mr. Seymour Hicks, as Dicky, the crossing-sweeper; Mr. J. C. Buckstone, as Mr. Joplin; and Miss Florence Lloyd, as Mrs. Hearty, the landlady, head a cast of exceptional strength; while Miss Margaret Fraser, who at the Gaiety sighed in vain for a chance, will now have an opportunity for the display of her ability. No doubt the play will draw large crowds, as it is a Christmas entertainment suitable for young and old.

A New Drama for the Century Theatre.

Mr. Tom B. Davis will present at the Century Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 1, a new and original drama by Auguste Thomas entitled "Arizona." This piece was produced in New York some eighteen months ago, is still running there, and has been played all over the United States. The company coming over is composed of the artists who appeared in the original cast, and will be exclusively American. "Arizona" will be produced at the Century. "The Belle of New York" was transferred to the Lyric Theatre on Monday.

New Play at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Mr. Charles Frohman has now definitely decided to present "The Twin Sisters," Ludwig Fulda's comedy, translated by Louis N. Parker, on Jan. 1 at the Duke of York's Theatre. Rehearsals have been conducted by Mr. Dion

JOY FOR THE LITTLE ONES THIS CHRISTMAS.

MR. COLLINS AND MR. D'AUBAN REHEARSING THE DRURY LANE PANTOMIME: A SKETCH AT THE CHENIES STREET DRILL-HALL, WHERE THE REHEARSALS ARE TAKING PLACE.

MR. D'AUBAN SHOWING HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE.

Boucicault, under whose direction the piece is to be produced. The entire action of the play takes place in one scene, painted by Mr. Walter Hann, and representing the loggia of a palace, situated between Florence and Padua. The period is the fifteenth century. Mr. Byam Shaw, whose illustrations to Shakspere, Browning, and Boccaccio are well known, has designed the various dresses, while the incidental music and a couple of songs have been composed by Madame Liza Lehmann.

The Old Drury Panto.

"Blue Beard," due at Christmas at Drury Lane, is shaping into one of the most gorgeous productions ever put on the stage of the National Theatre by Mr. Arthur Collins. As is generally known, the children's pantomime will this year be divided into three parts, and due prominence has been given to the beauties of the Land of Ferns and the Magic Fans, the two big scenes that end the first two acts. Little has, however, been heard of a device in the last scene which represents falling stars, and should go far to make up for the disappointment caused by the non-appearance this winter of the lost Leonids. Another illusion in the coming pantomime at Old Drury is one arranged by Mr. Maskelyne in Blue Beard's Chamber, when instead of the old-fashioned decapitated heads with gory locks of the despot's wives, which were calculated to frighten the children, these unfortunate matrons appear in quite a novel and amusing form.

The Grand Theatre, Fulham.

On Boxing Day, Dec. 26, Mr. Henderson will produce his fifth annual pantomime, "Sinbad the Sailor." The principal scenes will include: "The Port of Balsora," "The Deck of the *Merry Matilda*," "The Diamond Valley," "The Mermaids' Home," "The Banqueting-Room," "On the Seashore," "The Golden East."

THE PROMPTER.

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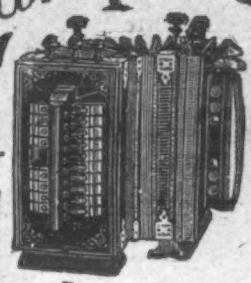
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HOW THE WORLD WAGS.

THE KING AND QUEEN, with the Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark brought their stay at Sandringham to a close on Monday, returning to London for a week. The Court will again be in residence at Sandringham for Christmas, when Their Majesties will entertain a large family party, while several distinguished guests are expected at the end of the month, as the Court, it is understood, will not be back in London till the New Year has begun. The King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family travelled to town by special train, leaving Wolferton at 1.5.

A Large Crowd of the general public gathered outside St. Pancras Station in anticipation of the arrival of Their Majesties. All the conveyances were closed, but the crowd recognised the King and Queen as they left the station approach, and cheered heartily. His Majesty, who looked in the best of health and spirits, was attended by Lord Suffield, General Sir Dighton Probyn, General Godfrey Clerk, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Davidson, and Captain G. Holford. Lady Eva Dugdale was in attendance upon the Princess of Wales.

The Prince of Wales also returned to London on Monday evening from his "shoot" with Sir Edward Lawson at Hall Barn, Beaconsfield. On Tuesday the Prince and Princess went on a short visit to Lord Mount Stephen at Brocket Hall, travelling from King's Cross to Hatfield by the Great Northern Railway.

The King held an investiture at St. James's Palace at noon on Tuesday, when he conferred war orders of various kinds on those entitled to them. Just before twelve His Majesty, in a semi-state coach, drove out from Marlborough House, escorted by detachments of the 2nd Life Guards, and, passing through Marlborough Gate into the Mall, made his way into St. James's Palace by the garden entrance. His Majesty, who was accompanied by Prince Charles of Denmark, graciously responded to the salutations accorded him by the crowds of spectators.

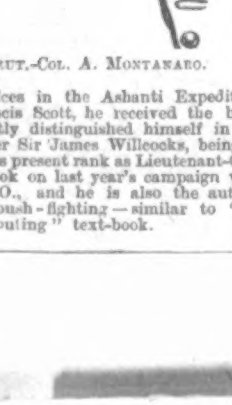
New Arms for the Prince of Wales.—Welshmen are naturally much elated now that the Red Dragon of Cadwallader is to find his due position in the heraldic "achievement" of the Prince of Wales. The question of the admission of the emblem of Wales is by no means of yesterday. In 1893 the complaint was that the Principality was not represented on the coinage. As Wales claims to possess a shield of arms as well as a badge, it was then said that these arms (quarterly or and gules four lions passant gardant countercharged) ought to be quartered with England, Scotland, and Ireland in the Royal banner, while another suggestion was that the Red Dragon should be

ARMS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

made a charge and quartered on the banner. In the quartered banner of Henry VII. the Red Dragon was so quartered, but he was quartered with other badges of the King, and not with the Royal arms. It is as a badge that the Red Dragon now appears in the Heir Apparent's "achievement." We must, however, not forget that the Red Dragon has had his enemies, some Welsh historians having treated him with the coldest indifference. Without the least doubt, he was the treasured standard of the stalwart native Princes of Wales. The Red Dragon having now been introduced into the Prince of Wales's arms, Welshmen will not be fully satisfied until it finds a place in the Royal Standard.

Electrical Engineers for the Front.—Lord Kitchener has just sent word to the War Office that he would like another—making the fifth—detachment of the Corps of Electrical Engineer Volunteers to be sent out immediately to the front. Their work consists of lighting bridges during repair, lighting camps and hospitals, steam traction, field telegraphs, telephones, field and garrison search-lights. We give a picture on another page of these useful and necessary men having dinner on the veldt.

Commander of the Aro Expedition.—Within the next few days operations will be commenced against the Aros in the Cross River district of Southern Nigeria. It is proposed to subjugate the tribes and to open up the country. The expedition, which it is said will be a protracted one, will be controlled by Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Montanaro, Royal Artillery, Commandant in Southern Nigeria. About 1500 troops will be engaged, and the tactics will probably be similar to those resorted to in the Ashanti Campaign, in which most of the officers and troops to be employed in this expedition participated. Colonel Montanaro's experiences in the last two Ashanti campaigns will stand him in good stead in the coming operations. For his services in the Ashanti Expedition of 1895, under Sir Francis Scott, he received the brevet of Major, and he greatly distinguished himself in last year's expedition under Sir James Willcocks, being subsequently promoted to his present rank as Lieutenant-Colonel. He has written a book on last year's campaign with Captain Armitage, D.S.O., and he is also the author of a little volume on bush-fighting—similar to "B.-P.'s" well-known "Scouting" text-book.



LIEUT.-COL. A. MONTANARO.

Sir Pertab Singh of Jodhpur.—This eminent gentleman has been appointed Honorary Commandant of the new Imperial Cadet Corps in India. The winter camp is to be at Meerut, the scene of the outbreak of the Mutiny in 1854. It is interesting to note that of the first batch of native cadets passed in, four are ruling chiefs. Colonel Sir Pertab Singh, G.C.S.I., is the uncle to the Maharajah of Jodhpur, and was an Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII. when Prince of Wales. As the leader of the famous Light Cavalry of India, he has done excellent service in assisting to hold the Dependency for Great Britain. At the late Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration in London four years ago, Sir Pertab was a notable figure. It will also be remembered that fifteen months ago he and his staff left Calcutta for service in China amid the heartiest cheers of the residents.

SIR PERTAB SINGH.

The Barque "Satellite" of Dover, bound for West Hartlepool, was completely at the mercy of the storm off Scarborough on Saturday. She left Dover on Dec. 9, and after sheltering in Yarmouth Roads had a terrible experience, all her sails being blown to shreds. The helm had

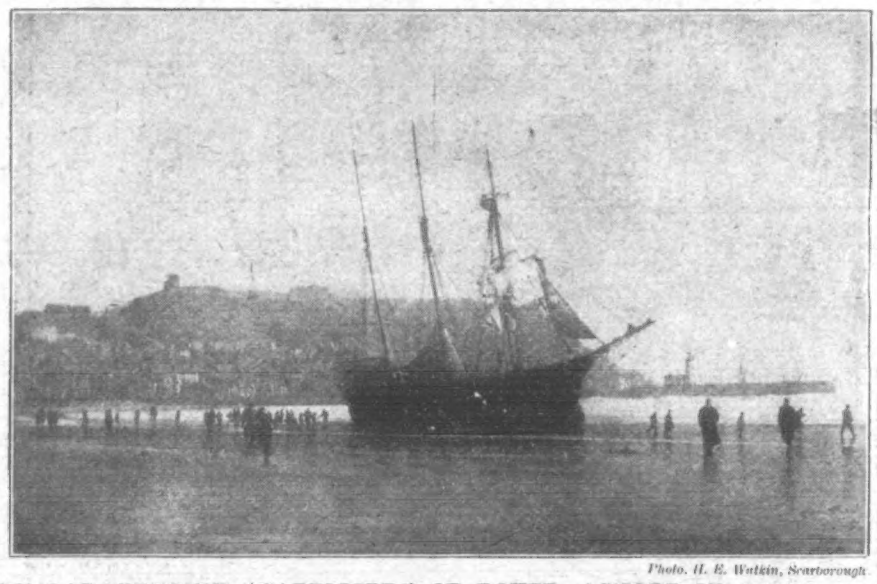


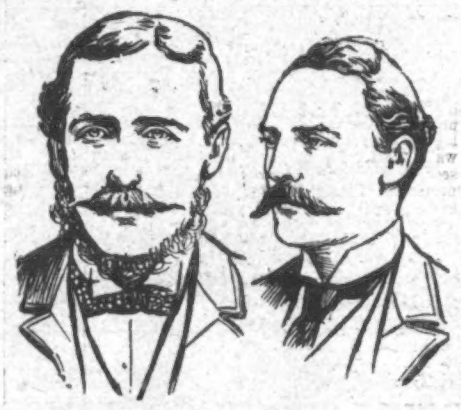
Photo. H. E. Watkin, Scarborough.

THE BARQUENTINE "SATELLITE," OF DOVER, ASHORE IN SOUTH BAY, SCARBOROUGH, LAST SATURDAY.

been lashed for two days, and it was also necessary to lash Captain Robert Dunn and the mate, Walker, to their posts. Yesterday it was evident the *Satellite* was rapidly going ashore, and lights were then flared for assistance. The Scarborough life-boat put off, and after twenty minutes was able to get to the side of the barque, which had then stranded on the South Sands. The crew, who had scrambled up the rigging when the great seas commenced to break right over the ship, now came down and were got into the life-boat and safely landed. They were all from Dover, their names being Captain Robert Dunn, mate Dan Walker, Joseph Perkins, William Oaten, Nelson Sharp, William J. Bishop, William Irons, and William Dean. They were comfortably housed at a local restaurant by Mr. Ellis, agent of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, and provided with dry clothes.

The Sugar Conference.—This week the important International Conference to consider the abolition of the sugar bounties meets in Brussels. The British delegates included Mr. E. C. Phipps, C.B., H.M. Minister at Brussels; Sir Henry Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue; Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.M.G., of the Foreign Office; Mr. Arthur Pearson, of the Colonial Office; and Mr. E. C. Ozanne, of the India Office.

Mr. Phipps was formerly Minister at Rio, and previously to that Secretary to the British Embassy in Paris. He has served in Berlin, Naples, Stuttgart, Munich, Washington, Athens, St. Petersburg, Buenos Ayres, Lisbon, Madrid, Budapest, and Vienna, and narrowly missed going as far afield as Mexico and Pekin. He has figured in numerous International Conferences and Commissions, although this is the first time he has attended a Sugar Conference. He is a specialist on African matters, and negotiated with France the Sierra Leone and Gold Coast Delimitation Treaties.



MR. E. CONSTANTINE PHIPPS. SIR HENRY PRIMROSE.

Sir Henry Primrose belongs to the gifted circle of ex-private secretaries to Mr. Gladstone. He is a cousin of Lord Rosebery. After serving for some time in the Treasury he went to India as Viceregal private secretary. In 1886 he became private secretary to Mr. Gladstone. Ten years later he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Customs, and in 1889 Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue. As a former chief of the Customs, Sir Henry is an expert on tariff questions, and it is in this capacity that he was invited to join the Sugar Conference.

Burmese Railroad Projects.—British politicians of all shades have long recognised the exceptional capacity of our Viceroy for dealing with the problems that so rapidly follow each other in the vast Indian Empire. Concentration or expansion is a point upon which we are not all agreed, but the recent speech of Lord Curzon at Rangoon told us in no uncertain tones that he favoured the former, especially with regard to the question of railways. The particular scheme to which he alluded was the suggested extension of the Burmese railroads across Yunnan into the Szechuen province.

Lord Salisbury informed us two years since that it would have to cross at right angles a number of high mountain ranges and deep valleys. Cost of construction would consequently be enormous, and when completed, the line would terminate in a province which has now a far superior outlet to the sea down the magnificent Yangtse-Kiang waterway. Advocates of the project must surely not fully realise that the trade of Szechuen would ever leave the Yangtse for the sole purpose of climbing by a narrow-gauge railroad the mountain sides of Yunnan. Lord Curzon, on virtually the same grounds, also disapproved of the less ambitious plan for the establishment of railway communication between Burma and India. One day this scheme may reasonably be carried out, but for the moment his Lordship advises delay. A glance at a map will show that the province of Burma is bounded by China, by Chinese subordinate tribes, by Siam, by the British provinces of Assam and Bengal, and by the sea. The area of Lower Burma is 87,957 square miles, and that of Upper Burma 83,473 miles.

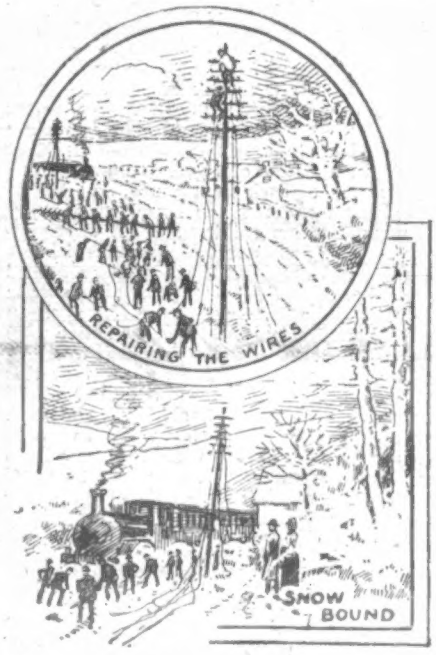
Mandalay, the capital of Upper Burma, is included in our large Illustration. It has a population of 188,815. From 1860 until 1885 it was the residence of the Burmese King. Rising abruptly from the flat plain in which the city is built is the isolated mound known as Mandalay Hill. From this point the tourist may see the city spread before him like a map, including the fort, with the palace in the centre, the temples and monuments of the once Royal city, and the artificial lake of King Mindon. Fort Dufferin, built to guard the palace, is a square of a mile and a quarter, enclosed by red brick walls 26 feet high.

SKETCH MAP, SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF BURMA.

Dom Lorenzo Perosi, whose "symphonic poem," "Moses," has just been produced, is not yet thirty. He was born at Tortona, where his father was the cathedral choir leader. In his boyhood he lived in an atmosphere of music, for his two brothers and three sisters are accomplished musicians. He studied at the excellent Roman School of Santa Cecilia, at the Benedictine College of Monte Cassino, and at the Conservatorio of Milan, where he took the degree of Maestro. After seeking further musical perfection at Ratisbon, he, at the age of twenty-three, entered the priesthood, and became conductor of the choir of St. Mark's, at Venice, where, absorbed in practising on the organ, he passed many an hour of the day and night in the stillness of that unique basilica, and where—such is his facility of composition—he wrote off with amazing rapidity a constant succession of hymns, masses, and sonatas, of which he scarcely altered a note on revision. His latest work, "Moses," is said to reveal the true artist in the strictest sense, and will probably be heard in London next season.

DOM LORENZO PEROSI.

The Great Storm.—Since last week's storm some parts of the country have resembled the Arctic regions more than Great Britain, and there has been almost as much difficulty in getting about. In places mail trains have been delayed, and others snowed up. Roads have become impassable, and a track has had to be cut for scores of miles before vehicular traffic could proceed, but perhaps what has caused the greatest loss and annoyance commercially is the widespread interruption of the telegraphic and telephonic communications due to the



ARCTIC ENGLAND: THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT BLIZZARD.

breaking of the wires. Time after time, winter after winter, similar serious breakdowns occur, and every gale that blows snaps a wire or two somewhere. The recent blizzard played such havoc with the lines in the Midlands as completely to sever the North of England from London and the South. Surely it is high time that steps were taken to obviate these exasperating interruptions by doing away with the old-fashioned overhead system, and taking the wires underground. An army of men are kept busy throughout the year repairing the wires—last week nearly two thousand linesmen were working early and late to restore communications—and the expenditure thus entailed would go a good way towards paying the interest on the money necessary to effect the much-needed reconstruction, while the saving in other directions would soon recoup the Post Office for the outlay.

Major Wools-Sampson.—This popular officer was one of the members of the Reform Club whom Mr. Kruger imprisoned in 1896, and, with Karri Davies, refused to pay the fine inflicted that would have procured his release, neither would he allow his numerous friends to pay it. He was kept in prison until 1897, when he was set free. At the outbreak of the war he joined the Imperial Light Horse, and was wounded at Elandslaagte. Recovering, he again took the field, and has done very brilliant work. When Colonel Benson was killed at Brakenlaagte, Major Wools-Sampson took command, and succeeded in keeping Botha's men off until reinforcements arrived. It was also mainly due to his intelligence that General Bruce Hamilton was able completely to outwit and capture a commando at Trichardsfontein. Major Wools-Sampson has a peculiar knowledge of the country and the possible tactics of the Boers, and throughout the campaign his services have been invaluable.

MAJOR WOOLS-SAMPSON.

DON'T LOOK OLD.—With advancing years greyness increases. Stop this with LOCKYER'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER, which darkens to the former colour and preserves the appearance. LOCKYER'S large Bottles everywhere.—[ADVT.]

READ THE "SKETCH." THE BRIGHTEST AND BEST 6d. WEEKLY.

THE WORLD OF PASTIME.

BOXING AT THE GERMAN "GYM."

FOR many years past there has been no more popular entertainment in connection with the pastimes put forward by the German Gymnastic Society than its open boxing competitions. In quality or quantity, or both, the contests have occasionally fallen off, but the public has remained staunch to the promoters of these trials of skill with Nature's weapons. The prizes offered by the G. G. S. have hitherto been of the kind that only the amateur who thinks more of the honour of winning than anything else considers sufficient. Discontent may have been felt, but not until recent years did it show itself, coming to the surface as a sign either that the true amateur chose to hold aloof from boxing competitions or that the spirit of true amateurism was departing. Influenced by the experiences of last year, and recognising the risk they ran of losing so valuable a nest-egg, the society this year increased the value of the prizes. The effect may be regarded as significant.

Entries were Good and Sport Excellent.

In the Bantam Weights the preliminary heats scarcely prepared one for the very interesting final between H. Perry (Columbia B.C.) and C. Hawes (17th N. Mid. R.V.S.C. of A.). Both fought determinedly, though not always effectively, throughout the first two rounds; in the third Perry made capital use of his left, and this helped him materially to a well-deserved victory. H. Holmes (Stanhope) won the Feather Weights. He had a bye in the first round, settled his man easily in the second round, the bout not being fought right out, and came up tolerably fresh to meet, in the final, R. Bedford (Victoria B.C.), who had narrowedly escaped defeat at the hands of J. Egan (Battersea) in the first round, after a regular grueller. The decider proved an exciting set-to, and only in the last few moments was the question of superiority settled. It was another near thing in the Light Weights between G. H. Stonard (Victoria A. and S.C.) and E. A. Fearman (Lynn B.C.), and the points fluctuated, so that at the close of the third round some were surprised at the judge's decision in favour of Stonard. A veteran came to the front in the Middle Weights. Somewhat singularly, W. Dees (Goldsmiths' B. and A.C.) knocked his man out in the preliminary, and was himself speedily settled in the same way in the final by E. Mann (Lynn B.C.), whose victory was very popular. R. Batchelor (Battersea F. and A.C.) settled both his two opponents in the Heavy Weights on comfortable terms, and so gained an amount of distinction denied him on previous occasions.

Some Football Cup Matches.

Much interest was shown in connection with several of the cup ties played on Saturday. Some 10,000 persons were present at Plumstead to watch Woolwich Arsenal and Luton, and, in truth, those who like a rough game and its attendant unhealthy excitement, had their fill. The play was of that scrambling description which is often to be seen when anything important is at stake. There will in all probability be a repetition of the spectacle, for as each side scored a goal, there will be another meeting. Singularly enough, the result was exactly the same in the match between Millwall and Bristol Rovers, played on the ground of the former club. The form shown was not particularly good, but there was no doubt about the earnestness of both sides. This, however, led to no tangible result, as already inferred, though Bristol Rovers ought perhaps to have won. Portsmouth received Small Heath, and at the close of an exciting game had one goal to the good. Reading, Walsall, Northampton, Glossop, and Burnley were also winners.

Corinthians Easily Beat Tottenham Hotspur.

On the last day of November the Corinthians journeyed to Tottenham, and returned defeated, if not disgraced, by the Hotspurs. On Saturday the latter visited Queen's Club, and left it with the reflection that the glory of their home performance had been diminished. There was practically no comparison between the teams. From start to finish the Corinthians played a fine game, with which the Hotspurs could not successfully compete, though they invested their play occasionally with a little more vigour than was necessary. The game was played with much spirit, and resulted in a victory for the Corinthians by three goals to none. Another capital match, with a closer result, was that between the London Caledonians and Richmond Association, played at Wood Lane. Neither side scored in the first half, and the only point obtained in the latter portion was a goal by Richmond.

League Matches.

Eight matches were played on Saturday in the First Division and three in the Second. Aston Villa, at Birmingham, beat Grimsby Town by four goals to one, Everton beat Notts County by two goals to none, Bury were narrowly beaten by Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Newcastle United and Sheffield United played a draw. In the Second Division Bristol City beat Gainsborough, and West Bromwich Albion beat Middlesbrough. In the Southern League the Brentford team, playing on their own ground, were able to make a draw of it with Southampton, and a very creditable draw too. West Ham United scored a win, their victims being Swindon, who were the visitors, the match being played at Canning Town.

Not a Great Match at Blackheath.

The visit of Cardiff to the home of the Blackheath F.C. proved as usual a source of attraction, but the game was not quite worthy of the occasion, though in excuse it may be said that the conditions did not favour excellence of play. Cardiff had the better of the game for the most part, but their backs were not seen to advantage, and nothing was scored by either side in the opening half. In the second part of the game the major portion of the pressing was done by Cardiff. Five minutes after change of ends they obtained a goal from a try, but afterwards they gained nothing tangible, while Blackheath secured a try.

Guy's Too Good for the Scots.

The students of Guy's Hospital make a capital team this season, and they are especially smart behind the scrummage. It was their superiority in this respect which enabled them to beat London Scottish on Saturday, despite the strength of the latter forward. On the whole the match was one of capital description, and Guy's deserved their victory by three tries to one. The Old Merchant Taylors' team on Saturday found that put into the field by Croydon one of almost equal capacity to their own. An interesting game was the result, despite the boisterous wind, victory going to the O.M.T.'s by a goal from a try to nothing. Richmond went to Coventry, and were successful by one try to nothing. Kensington narrowly beat Rosslyn Park, and Harlequins easily defeated Old Leysians. The Universities began touring on Saturday. Oxford went to Bristol, and played a draw with the local club; and Cambridge were at Edinburgh, where they beat the Wanderers. Newport and Swansea again met, and the result, as before, was a draw after a fine'y contested game. There remains to be mentioned

North v. South.

It was played at Fallowfield, and attracted less than two thousand spectators—a result reflecting somewhat unpleasantly when the one-time attractiveness of the match is considered. As an international trial game it was a success, though the North were distinctly the better side, and won by four goals (20 points) to two tries (6 points). The next Rugby Union trial match—Rest of England v. Devon—weather permitting, is to take place at Exeter on Saturday in the present week.

The Inter-University Football Match

that took place last week is dealt with on another page.

Maclaren's Team Victorious Over All Australia.

Though individually some good performances were accomplished by the English cricketers now in Australia during the opening portion of their tour, it cannot be said that what was done collectively gave much hope of success in the more important matches. The result of the first test match has therefore created an additional amount of gratification, even delight. The scene was Sydney, and the day the 13th of December. Fair weather and a true wicket were the conditions associated with the morning of the start, and consequently each side hoped to win the toss. Fortune favoured Maclaren, and he amply repaid the good Dame by making 116—not without fault, but in capital form nevertheless. Hayward, who helped his captain to put on 154 runs for the first wicket, made 69. Then there was a lull. Tyldesley obtained one run only; Quaife and G. L. Jessop just topped the twenty; A. O. Jones was out for 9. It did not look like being a big total, after all. But Lilley (84) and Braund (58) came to stay, and wrought a great change; J. Gunn, Barnes, and Blythe each contributed 20 or over, and, lo!

The Total Stood at 464

when the Australians were relieved of their task of fielding. At drawing of stumps on Saturday, the Colonials had lost three wickets for 103 runs. S. E. Gregory (48) was out, but C. Hill was not out (42), and so anything might happen on Monday. What happened was disaster to the Colonials. No other batsman remaining in the first innings except Darling (39) made ten runs, and the side collapsed for 168. Barnes's analysis came out five wickets for 65 runs, and Blythe's three for 26. In the "follow" the bowling of the Englishmen again met with much success. This time it was Braund—who so far has played a very important part in the tour—who did best, five wickets falling to his share, but Blythe had four. The highest score was 43 by Gregory, and the whole side being out for 172; the Englishmen won by an innings and 124 runs.

The Field of Play.

The Sydney ground, the scene of the remarkable test match of last week, is unquestionably the best appointed in the world. There is no other ground on which so many people can comfortably see the game. There is a members' pavilion, which seats fully 2000 men; a ladies' stand within the members' reserve, which accommodates 2000 ladies; and a grand-stand and smokers' stand, which will hold several thousand

people. To all these the admission is by extra payment. The ordinary spectator who is satisfied with his modest shilling's-worth is provided with a grass-covered embankment, while there is a covered stand, for admission to which no extra charge is made. The members' pavilion suffers by comparison with the magnificent structure at Lord's, says George Giffen in "With Bat and Ball," but nowhere, he adds, has he seen so beautiful a building on a cricket-ground as the ladies' pavilion at Sydney. Thirty thousand people may sit around the ground and watch a cricket-match without once uncomfortably straining their necks.

Various.

Table tennis has recently had much prominence given to it by means of tournaments at the Westminster Aquarium. In the ladies' section Miss V. Eames won, and in the gentlemen's the winner was R. Ayling. The success met with has induced the authorities to fix another tournament for Jan. 8, etc. The holder of the Thames Hare and Hounds Long Distance Challenge Cup, H. G. Lloyd, was unopposed. C. Vickers won the four miles road handicap of the Thames Valley Harriers from scratch; his time was 26 min. 25 sec. S. J. Woolley (2 min. 20 sec. start) won the Finchley and Highgate combined four-mile road handicap. J. Walker (1 min. 20 sec.), who made the fastest time, covered the distance in 22 min. 19 sec.

A Herculean Feat.

On Jan. 6, 1902, something of a sensational feat will be attempted in the way of club swinging. Mr. H. E. Moss, of the London Hippodrome, who has run the Waverley Market Carnival in Edinburgh for the past sixteen years, has engaged as one of his attractions for the last week of the Carnival Mr. Tom W. Burrows of Australia. He will endeavour to swing a pair of clubs weighing two pounds each for twelve consecutive hours each day for six successive days under the following conditions: He will swing at least fifty complete circles each minute without rest or stop. He will have no artificial aid whatever, and there will be two judges always present. At Aldershot in March 1895 Burrows established a record of twenty-four hours. At Cairo in 1896 he beat that by two and a quarter hours. At the National Sporting Club in May 1897 he won a heavy purse and a gold medal for thirty hours' consecutive swinging. On this occasion he started at two o'clock in the afternoon, continuing all through the night and the next day until 8 p.m. On May 28th of this year he accomplished the extraordinary feat of swinging the clubs for thirty-six hours without exhausting himself. Burrows has trained in Australia, England, and America some of the greatest athletes of the day: Frank Slavin; Perryman, the champion wrestler of Australia; Tom Williams, the champion boxer of Australia; Duncan Ross, the champion athlete of America; and Captain W. E. Johnstone, ex-amateur boxing champion of England and of the Army. Mr. H. E. Moss will open the Waverley Market Carnival on Dec. 23.

BANSHEE.

A Volunteer, who was a great man in his own eyes, was by some influence appointed captain. He could hardly speak of anything but his new dignity. Meeting a friend one day, he accosted him thus: "Well, Jim, I suppose you know I have been appointed captain?" "Yes," said Jim, "I heard so." "Well, what do your folks say about it?" asked the captain. "They don't say nothin'," replied truthful James; "they just laugh."

An Old Lady, who, with her husband, had spent the winter in Japan, was asked by one of her friends if she had felt an earthquake while there. "Yes, I felt one," she answered, "and rather enjoyed it; for it was the first thing that happened since John and I have been married that he did not think I was to blame for"

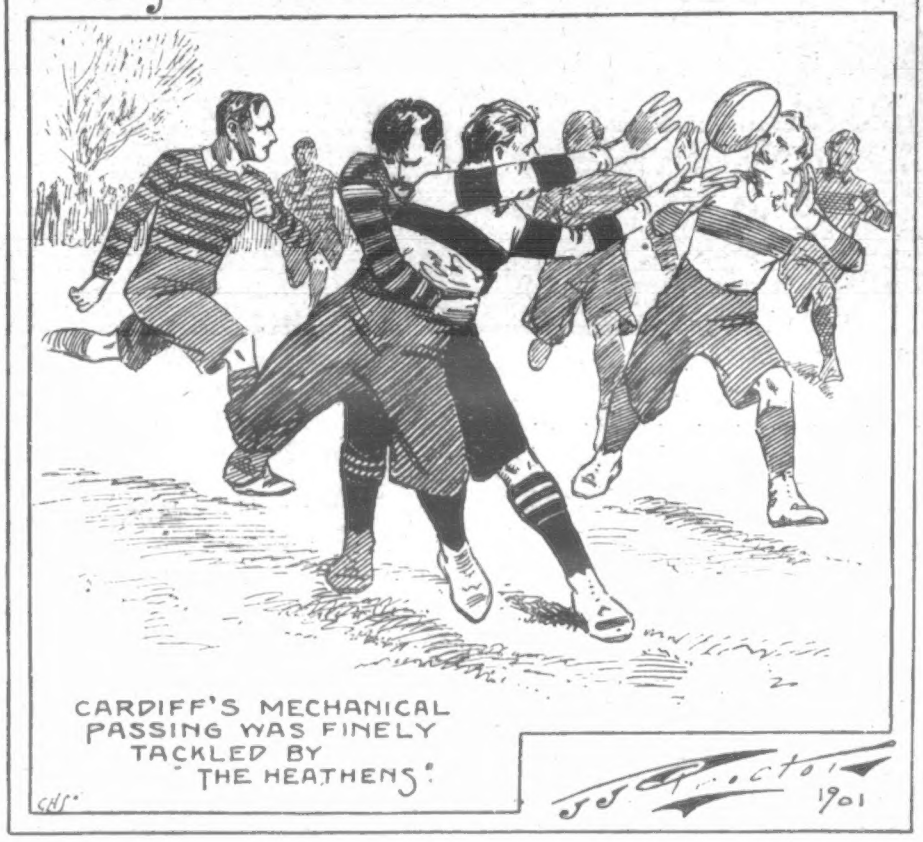
Customer: "Give me two packets of cigarettes, please."

Dealer (wishing to offer inducements): "This is the best brand. To each packet you will find one of those very spicy photographs."

Customer (horrified): "Heavens! man, give me some other kind. These are for my daughter."

A CAREFUL FATHER.

BLACKHEATH —v— CARDIFF
LAST SATURDAY



A CHRISTMAS FAIRY STORY.

THE GOOD AND BAD FAIRIES, AND HOW THE GOOD TRIUMPHED.

My dear Children, you asked me to tell you why it is that you are all so healthy, so full of good spirits, and so happy in all things, when there are so many that we meet every day that have none of these blessings, but who are thin and ill, every step they take painful, and seemingly quite incapable of enjoying this beautiful world of ours.

I will tell you. It is because you are guarded by a wonderful Talisman, which has shielded you from your earliest infancy, and which is the gift of the Good Fairies, who spend all their time in watching and keeping from harm the little ones in every home that possesses it; for everyone can have it if they will only ask for it, and their children will grow up healthy and strong, as you have done.

But to make you understand it all, we must go back a long time—many, many years before you were born—when the Wicked Fairies had it all their own way, and there were none to say them nay. You have all heard of the Wicked Fairies who used to take the dear little babies, just born, out of their cots, and carry them ever so far away, leaving in their place poor little shrivelled-up mites, who looked more like bags of bones than children.

Especially at that time there were two—oh! such Wicked Fairies; nothing good about them, whose names I will tell you presently, who always were trying how much harm they could do, and never were so happy as when they were causing some misery or other to the Earth Children, as our race was called in those long-past days; so, whenever they could, they would steal away some dear little plump, crowing, darling little baby, and leave in its place a poor, wizened, miserable little thing, that everyone said was a "changeling" directly it was seen.

Did you ever hear of anything so wicked and cruel?

How long this would have gone on no one can say. Perhaps, instead of sitting now, this Christmas night, all of us around the warm fireside, so happy each of you listening to mamma's "Fairy Story," one and all of you might have been far away from home and friends, down in the depths of the earth, digging and delving to please the Wicked Fairies who had stolen you away, and who never say a kind word, and who would tear and pinch you for very mischief. Are you not thankful that it is not so?

Luckily for you, there are Good Fairies as well as bad ones—so kind and true, just the reverse of those I have told you of—who pass all their time in doing good and being kind to the Earth Children; and there were also two of these whose names you shall also soon know, who could not bear to see the way in which the Wicked Fairies treated their pets, and so they set to work and thought, and thought, and thought how they could prevent their being stolen away and treated so badly. At last they discovered that they must find a certain Talisman, which was of such a wondrous nature that whoever had it in the house where they lived would be quite free from the attacks of all the Wicked Fairies, especially the two that did so much harm. Such a wonderful Talisman this! No one before had ever heard of such a thing—not large, encased in white paper with cabalistic letters on it, and yet it not only protects children from every ill, but it provides them with delicious food, which never disagrees with them, and soon makes even a changeling plump and strong. Then the question was, How is this Talisman to be found? Where is it? Where could it be hidden? Surely, nowhere on earth? Such a treasure must be hidden away in the moonbeams, or on some distant star. So off they went from star to star, then to the moon, but the man in it did not know anything about the "Talisman"; so at last they were nearly tired with their search, and almost gave up hope, when, having come back again to earth, they saw a dear old wise, clever physician, surrounded with books even more clever than himself, who for years had been trying to find the same Talisman that they had themselves tried so hard to find; and now he had nearly found it, and, indeed, would have quite found it, but that it could not be found by mortal man without the Fairies' help.

So, at once, the two Good Fairies, whose names were Knowledge and Carefulness, went and sat one on each side of the good doctor, prompting him and helping him on; and soon the Talisman appeared, and the good doctor gave it to all his patients; and all their children became well and strong. And all the Wicked Fairies, with the two whose names were Ignorance and Neglect, fled away, utterly powerless for harm, except to those who would not keep the Talisman. And, although there are many foolish ones who have not even yet obtained it, there are thousands upon thousands of children—yes, and grown-up men and women too—who hourly bless the good Physician and the kind Fairies, through whose exertions they are saved from Ill-Health, Disease, and Death. And you, my dear children, take to heart this little story, and, as you grow up, be sure you continue friends with the Good Fairies I have told you of, for you will always find Knowledge a powerful friend in need, and that with Knowledge combined with Carefulness you will escape almost every ill that can come upon you. And what is this Talisman, possessing all these marvellous properties? Can you guess? You have seen it often enough. Why, a tin of Dr. Ridge's Patent Cooked Food—a Talisman indeed, giving Health, Strength, and Comfort, and Quiet Nights.—[ADVT.]

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BATTLE OF THE BLUES.

RARELY has a prettier game been played between the Universities than that at Queen's Club on Dec. 11. As everybody expected, Oxford won; but the adherents of Cambridge can at least justly point out that if Oxford had slightly the better of the game, they should not have won by so large a margin as a goal and a try to nothing.

Where the Oxonians excelled was in speed and understanding among their back division, which was more "classy" than that of the Cantabs. There was more polish and initiative in the methods of the Dark Blue backs, Walton, Terry, Crabbie, and Strand-Jones all catching the eye right through the game. By comparison, the Cambridge team was poorly served in the matter of backs. Horsley played like a Trojan, and with a little more experience he will probably rank among the very best of full-backs.

The wing three-quarters, too, did not come up to expectation. Indeed, throughout the game the almost perfect understanding which existed on the Oxford side contrasted vividly with the spasmodic efforts of the Cambridge three-quarters. In tackling they were resolute enough; in most of their passing bouts they transferred accurately; but in the finesse of the game—drawing opponents, making ground when passing the ball, and in other details—they were found wanting, as a rule.

There was little to choose between the sides in the early stages of the game, but in the second half the Oxonians settled down to something approaching their best form, and some very fine play followed.

This was the fifteenth match played on the Queen's Club ground, making the twelfth Oxford victory in all, to ten of Cambridge, and seven drawn games out of twenty-nine occasions on which the Universities have met at the Rugby game. Oxford certainly justified their fine unbeaten record of 186 to 40, though a Challenge Cup seems scarcely necessary to emphasise the fact that Vassall's traditions have not been forgotten. The Dark Blues are beginning the series of inter-University contests well, for their Rugby victory follows a success in the cross-country event, in which not a single Cambridge man ran into a place at all. Revenge will, no doubt, come with the New Year.

"P.I.P." SNAP-SHOTS OF THE UNIVERSITY MATCH AT QUEEN'S CLUB ON DECEMBER 11.

A RUSH BY CAMBRIDGE.

A SCRUMMAGE.

What you've Longed for—

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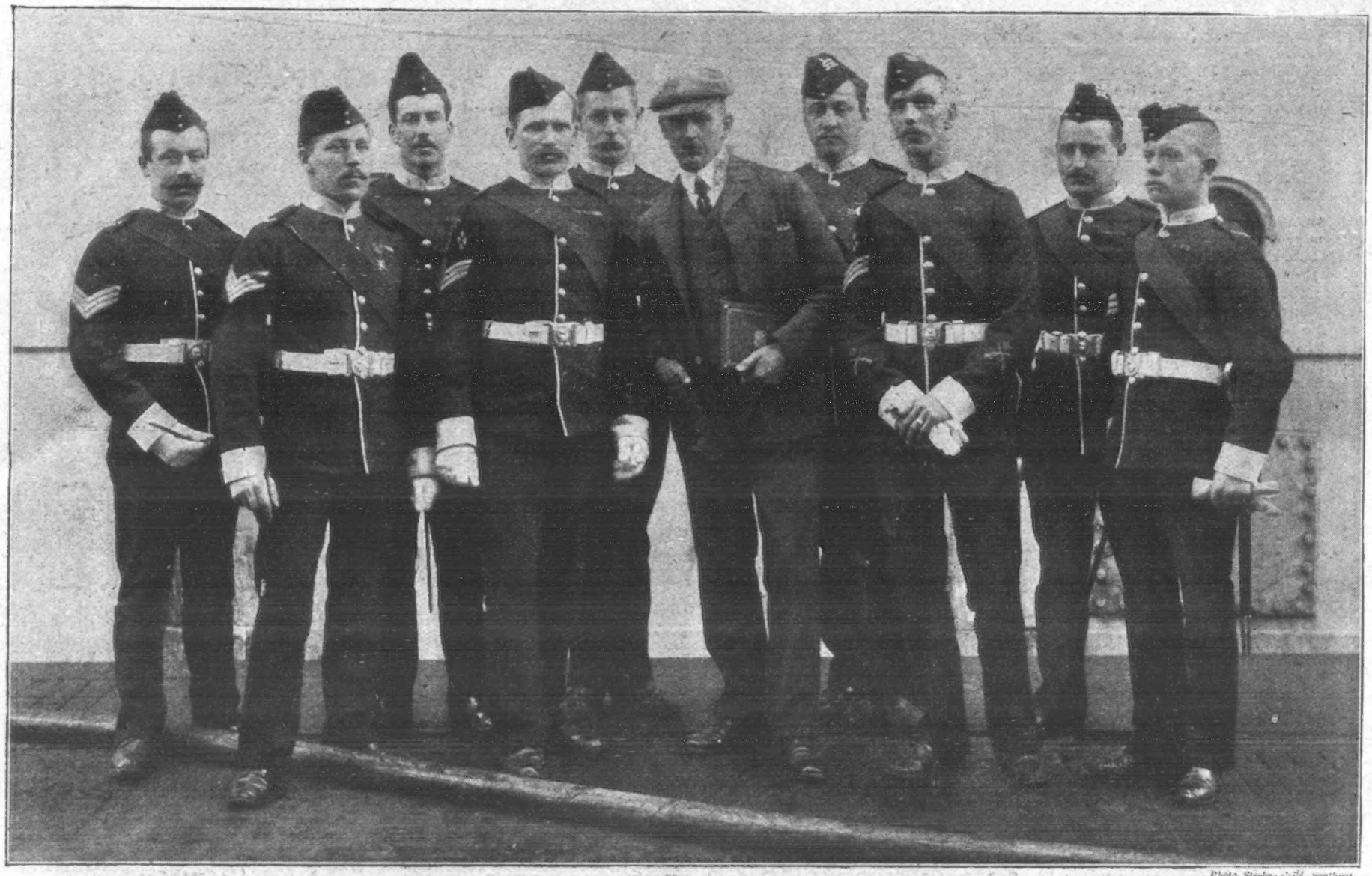
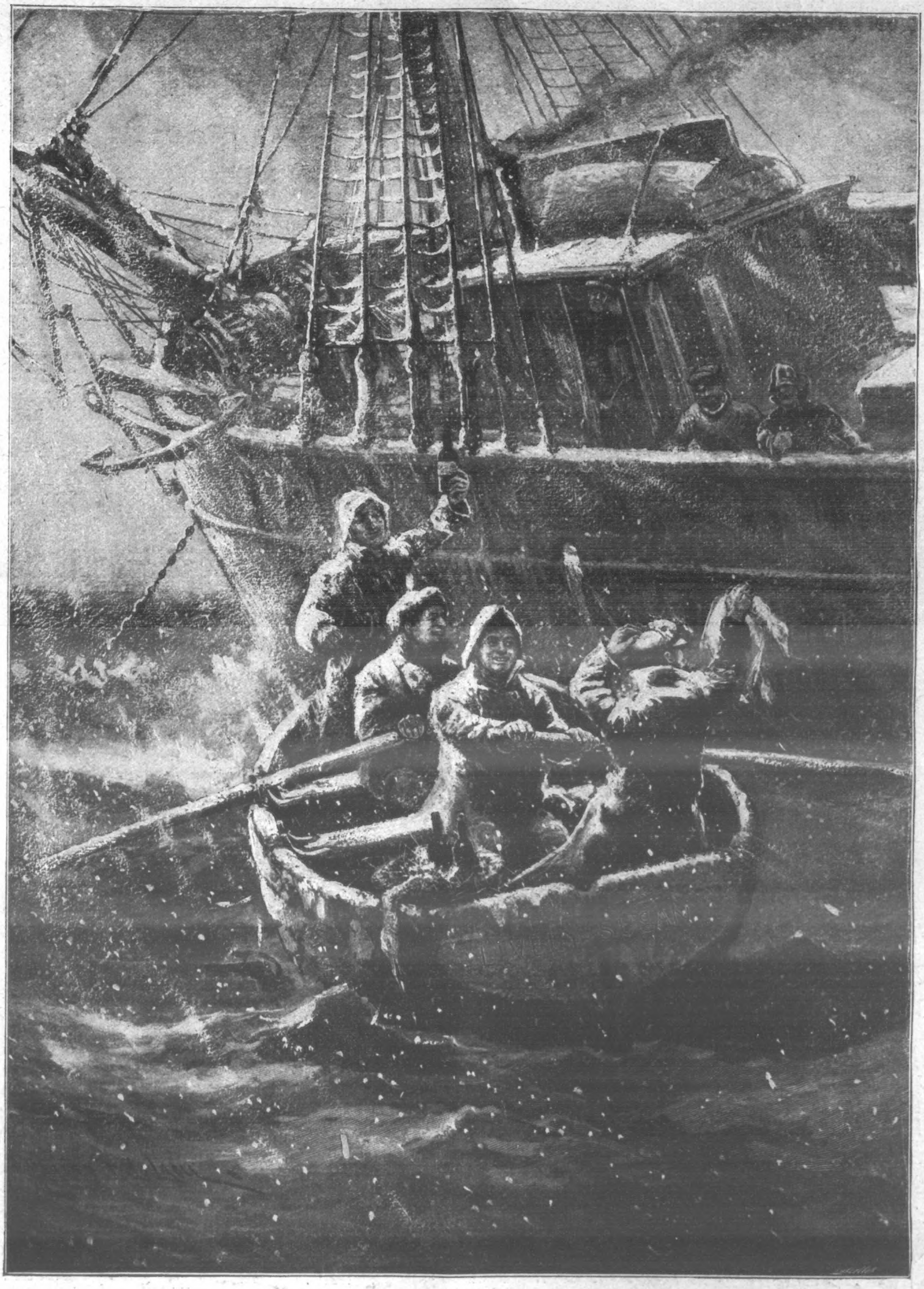


Photo. Stephen Gold, Southsea.

MAJOR-GENERAL WALTER KITCHENER AND THE NINE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WHO PRESENTED HIM WITH AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME AT SOUTHAMPTON ON DECEMBER 6.

See "Talk of London."

HOW THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS WILL TAKE THEIR CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE FRONT.



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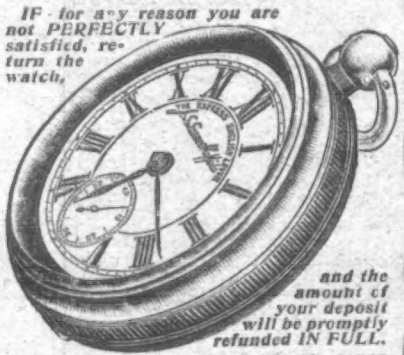

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ANNUAL SALE, 362,000 BOTTLES.

They Two.

BY LEILY BINGEN.

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SHE was just thirty the first time she met Paul Seton at the Writers' Club.

"Is this your first visit to our club?" she asked him, as they steered their way with cups and cakes to a quiet corner. "Our Friday house teas are a bit of an institution, and we always try to draw lions and lionesses to our den; though, to tell you the truth, we find as a rule the lioness takes more kindly to our petting than the lion."

"I don't wonder. Do you know, it was quite an ordeal for me to accept Miss Vernon's invitation to-day, and if I had not met her in the doorway I think at the last moment I should have turned tail and fled, for a hundred women drinking tea and chattering away are rather formidable *en bloc*, however charming taken separately," he continued, pointing his remark with a comprehensive glance at the trim little figure by his side.

"It's only an idea that we are fearsome creatures," she returned laughingly; "we are all workers—some from choice, more from necessity; but Fridays we blossom out into dissipation. Next week I shall be hostess, so I hope you will beard us again. I shall be so pleased if you will come as my guest."

"I've been very jolly here, and I shall certainly come next week if you'll have me," he said at length, coming reluctantly from his corner as the guests gradually disappeared and the tea-table began to wear a deserted air. "I shall bring you a copy of my book, if I may, since you are kind enough to say you would like to read it."

"Indeed I shall," she answered heartily, "especially if you will put my name and your signature in it. I have a weakness for volumes signed by their authors, and if one day you ever come to see me in my elevated diggings I will show you my favourite shelf lined with autographed books. Underneath that shelf hangs a thick curtain," she continued, "where cups and saucers and tins of biscuits jostle manuscripts and magazines. I'm not often at home for a meal, but sometimes I make tea for myself, and enjoy a light repast whilst I'm getting through my writing."

"It sounds attractive, and certainly not monotonous," he said, as he hunted for his umbrella amid a serried row of sticks and umbrellas, and then they said good-bye, and Margaret went back to the writing-room to turn out a column of feminine gossip on modes and cookery.

The acquaintance thus begun in chance fashion steadily ripened, and Margaret Bryant found herself looking forward with pleasure to those days when she met Paul Seton. He fulfilled his promise of bringing his book, and she managed to draw a good deal of notice to it with a paragraph here and a criticism there, and was not a little pleased at being able to do the young author a good turn.

Life went by too swiftly for Margaret Bryant to pause and weigh her new-found happiness, but half unconsciously she strove to make the very best of herself in those days. The neat tailor-made gown in which she went her round fitted her trim little figure to perfection, her hat was becoming, her gloves and shoes irreproachable, and with that new flush on her cheeks, that new brightness in her clear grey eyes, the lines that time had drawn on her face were less pronounced, and something in her whole outward appearance seemed to correspond with that secret joyousness so deep down in her heart.

And then one day, in cruel fashion, the awakening came. She was sitting at the club reading the papers, and close to a door that opened in on a second smaller room two sisters of the pen were at work. Margaret was half hidden from sight, and steeped in her papers, and the first words that fell on her ears conveyed no special meaning to her.

"She's thirty-five if she is a day," said the first voice.

"Yes, she must be quite that, and looks her age, too. But she has picked up lately, and does her utmost to look her best and youngest since she and Paul Seton have been so much together."

Then Margaret heard, and a hot flush rose in her cheeks. It would have been difficult to leave the room without the speakers catching sight of her, and cowardice, or perhaps a desire to hear the thing out, held her rooted to her seat.

"You don't think that will come to anything, do you?" said the first speaker contemptuously; "she's certainly devoted enough to him, and lets the young fellow see it; but she's far too old for him—getting on the shelf, I consider, while Paul Seton can pick and choose."

Then the conversation drifted from Paul Seton to another, and still Margaret sat on with the hot flush faded from her cheeks and a sudden sick faint feeling making the room swim around her.

At length she crept across the room and out of the club, conscious only of one thing, the desire to be at home, alone, to think it all out.

"My God, is it true?" she asked herself pitifully, the hot tears searing her cheeks. "Have I so far forgotten myself as to give my heart unasked and make it patent to the whole world, or is it but a malicious invention, their idle gossip, bred from nothing?" But the more Margaret searched her heart the more a sense of truth in their words came home to her.

"But he has not guessed it; he shall never know," she told herself emphatically; "we can go on being friends, for life would be a blank without him, but he will never guess that he is anything but a kindly comrade."

And so when Paul Seton next called upon her he wondered deeply at a certain restraint that appeared in Margaret's manner, and day by day it grew, till at length he began to speculate as to what was the barrier that rose up between them.

"Miss Bryant, have I done anything to offend you?" he said steadily one day, when, meeting her in the Strand, she brushed by him with a hasty bow; but he turned round and walked by her side.

"Offend me? Quite impossible! You must have imagined it!" she answered jerkily.

"Then if I have not incurred your displeasure and you are on your homeward way, may I join you?" he said, and Margaret perforce could only answer "Yes."

"I'm afraid I haven't much time for a chat," she said lamely as they passed the Law Courts and turned up Chancery Lane; "I'm drivingly busy."

"And you look quite fagged. Never mind, I shall come in and make you a hot cup of tea and some toast, and you needn't speak a word to me till you are quite finished."

They toiled up the stairs to her rooms, and Margaret coaxed the fire into a blaze and handed Paul the kettle before she sat down to her desk. The truth to tell, her article could have waited till the morrow, but she did not wish him to know it.

Presently he brought the tea steaming hot to her side, and a plate of crisply made toast, and looked over her shoulder. "Why, you've written hardly anything," he said; "do turn round and rest for half an hour, and go back to your work afterwards." Then their eyes met, and something in his glance made Margaret drop her pen and meekly leave her desk.

"That's better," he said cheerily, drawing up a chair for her beside the fire. "You know, I've a bone to pick with you."

"Impossible. I feel too battered to pick back again," she said weakly, and then he dropped his bantering voice and went on—

"What have I done that you have thrust me on one side these past weeks. You know I would not do anything to vex you, Margaret; I cannot understand it. Don't you know, my dear one, how I have learnt to love you? Since that first time when we met at the Writers', every day you have grown dearer."

The tired woman sitting there at her fireside had her moment of triumph as the honest manly voice went steadily on. "If they could but know," she thought, those cruel ones whose idle tongues had poisoned life for her; then she answered bravely—

"Please don't go any further; don't say anything that would destroy our friendship—it has been so pleasant."

"Margaret," he broke in vehemently, "I want it to be something much more than a friendship: listen to me, dear——" But she shook her head.

"My friend, my kind friend, spare us both."

"Does that mean you cannot care for me?"

"It means that we are just comrades, only that."

"You never loved me, then; all this while I was deceiving myself," and his voice was full of pain.

A minute Margaret hesitated, and a piano-organ below struck up cheerily in the music—

When we are married,
Ah, what will you do!

He didn't really love her, she told herself, thrusting back that sudden glimpse of happiness; it was just pity that spoke: he was offering her his hand because he knew he had her heart.

"You have made a mistake; there has been, there only can be, friendship between us."

"Why?"

"For one thing, because I feel I am much older than you are"—recklessly. "Do you know"—she spared herself nothing—"that I was thirty the day we met, and you are only six-and-twenty?"

"If you can make such a ridiculous excuse as that," he said, his voice suddenly growing stiff and cold, "I realise that indeed you do not care for me."

He rose up from his chair, and Margaret kept her eyes down on the fire. She would not contradict him, and if he liked to put her refusal down to indifference, that excuse would serve as well as any other.

"Then it is only left for me to say good-bye," he said, going slowly towards the door.

"Good-bye, dear friend; don't be angry with me," she said softly.

He paused at the door, and then came back with an impulsive stride and knelt down on the hearth beside her, taking her two hands in his. "Margaret, my dear one, I don't believe it. Someone has come between us, and I will not believe you mean what you say. Look up at me, dear. Till you can say straight to me, 'Paul, I do not care for you,' I will not take 'No' for an answer—now speak."

He held her hands so tightly that she could almost have exclaimed with pain, and then slowly, steadily, she lifted her eyes to him to say the cruel words and thrust her happiness behind her; but his eyes were looking searchingly into hers, his warm breath fanned her cheek, and somehow, before she knew how it was, he had drawn her into his arms and pressed hot kisses on her face.

THE END.

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Rosalind's Fashions.

FOR the Christmas season the most popular gifts will be fur of every kind, made up in all sorts of garments. Long coats are lined with the white part of the squirrel, which is made to form most beautiful patterns. There are exquisite models in fur-trimmed velvet frocks. Fur capes are pressed into the surface for evening wear, with the collar trimmed with lace and chiffon. The smartest hats are made of sable and mink. Nothing comes amiss, and where enhanced with some lace and violets look very charming indeed.

STYLISH VELVET HAT.

* * *

Christmas Bazaars have been on in all the shops for some time, and it seems to me that the children nowadays will have an uncommonly good time when the happy 25th comes round. I have, from time to time, given ideas for keeping the headwear up-to-date, and this week the hat in my Illustration is a velvet one, with flat, low crown, while the brim is swathed with a white lace veil. These lace veils are the most economical trimmings one could have. When they grow dirty, washing makes them like new again. They are easily taken off, washed, spread out to dry, shaken up and pulled in position, and pinned upon the hat again, without any loss of time, and they always look smart, especially upon velvet.

* * * *

My Model has an osprey fastened with a paste clasp at the side, while underneath the brim are rosettes of black velvet. The collar upon this figure may be of white lace over satin, and edged with caracul. If this collar is inter-

REVERSIBLE CLOTH CAPE.

lined with French canvas and lined with sarcenet, it will be quite warm enough to wear outside.

* * * * *

The Golf-Cape.—For those who do not care to wear furs in all weathers, there is the ever-serviceable golf-cape, an Illustration of which I give. This one is made of reversible cloth—that is, it is self-coloured on one side, while the inside is patterned with coloured check. The cape itself is made with plain side out, while the hood is made with the patterned side out, the collar being plain. These capes are very useful to wear above a short coat, and may also do duty over a white evening cape to wear in the street when going to any entertainment. In fact, there is no end to the usefulness of the golf-cape.

* * *

At Present everybody is thinking more about their evening dresses than outdoor frocks. A black silk skirt with white silk blouse and lace yoke always looks well, but a skirt and blouse for young girls never looks dressy. Therefore, I should advise that the dress, although the material may not be very expensive, should be all of one material.

* * *

My Illustration shows a tucked washing-silk frock, very simply made, as anything of this description does not require to be embellished, and young girls do not need very much trimming to make them look nice. The trimming for this bodice consists of lace insertion put on in vandykes, from which the silk is cut away at the back. The flounce upon the skirt is trimmed in the same manner, and the elbow-sleeves have the frill edged with lace. Black velvet waistband and bows at the elbows finish the dress.

A WASHING-SILK FROCK.

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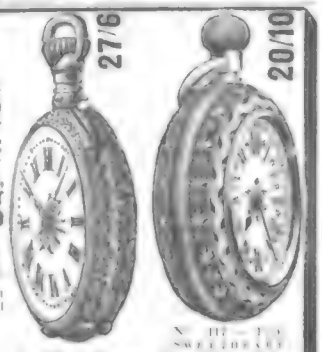

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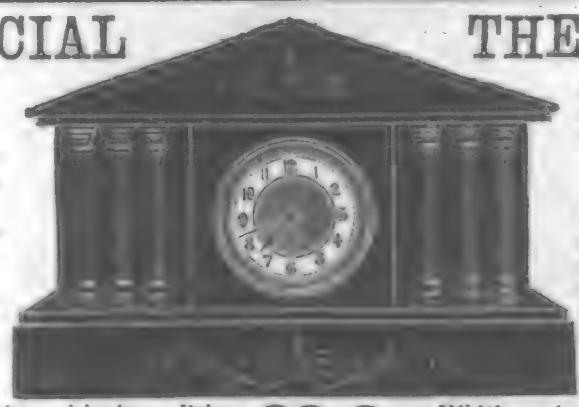

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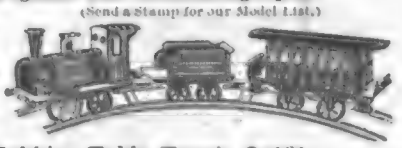

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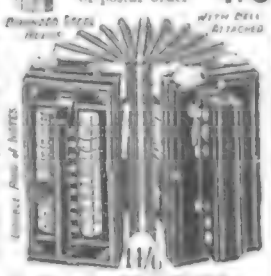

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THE WORLD OF WOMEN.

THE LONDON SHOPS AT CHRISTMASTIDE, specially decorated with much good taste and allurement, are so supremely attractive that it is not to be wondered at that

Queen Alexandra

has, as usual, left her snug, well-loved Norfolk home to buy her Christmas presents in town. To Her Majesty, as to many of her loyal subjects who have also suffered greatly during the past few years, it must have been quite cheering to see bright and radiant silks flashing once again in the windows of such popular West-End drapers as Swan and Edgar's and Peter Robinson's, that have been rarely embellished by fabrics of such exquisitely beautiful tints or by ball-dresses of such lovely make.

Apropos of Regent Street,

Her Majesty has it in her power by a timely hint to do an incalculable service to the loyal tradesmen of that magnificent thoroughfare. The Queen, whose good-nature is well known, has but to express her gracious wish that the Royal Procession on Coronation week should proceed up Regent Street and by way of Oxford Street to Holborn and to the City, to secure this favour for our handsomest thoroughfare, and thereby to confer a richly deserved boon upon a most influential class of shopkeepers too long neglected by the authorities who have decided public routes for the Royal Family.

London materfamilias should not forget on the eve of Christmas that favourite old toy bazaar,

The Lowther Arcade,

the stallholders in which have bestirred themselves to procure the most tempting and amusing novelties manufactured this season. Coutts's Bank people do not occupy the Arcade for some time to come. As a rumour to the contrary has been spread about, it is but just to make it generally known that this well-known street of toys continues to be the children's paradise.

Tom Smith's Crackers,

without which no Christmas or Twelfth Night table is complete, are this year fuller of magnetic charm than ever. I don't envy the bachelor or spinster who can gaze at the good-humoured, merry faces portrayed on each box of these best of bonbons without determining to cheer the hearts of some households known to them by seasonable gifts of Tom Smith's "Coronation," "Lucky Box," "Toy Symphony," or "Game of Celebrities" Crackers. I know nothing more likely to "Drive Dull Care Away" than a present of Tom Smith's Crackers at Christmas-time. I rejoice, too, to know that through the munificence of Messrs. Tom Smith and Son several thousand Crackers have been added once again to the *Truth* Toys for the recreation of the pitiful hosts of hospital children this Christmas.

Table-Tennis Tournament.

The interest that was evinced in the Ping-Pong Tournament at the Royal Aquarium last week culminated on Saturday evening in an exciting finish. Play in the ladies' finals was singularly close. In the last game, played between Mrs. Thomas and Miss V. Eames, and won by the latter with 5 points only to the good, each lady secured one game and 25 points, upon which it was decided to play for 5 consecutive points, Miss Eames ultimately scoring, and winning the ladies' championship. The game was watched by numerous spectators during the afternoon, and again in the evening a large crowd was present to watch the final stages of the gentlemen's division. Mr. T. Baker beat Mr. C. W. Vining, and Mr. R. Ayling beat Mr. G. Greville in the semi-finals. Both games were close, the former being quite exciting, as the opponents were well matched. It was impossible for all the spectators to see the final tie played. Every seat around the enclosure was occupied, and beyond that the crowd was three and four deep. Standing at one game of 30 points each, the competitors played splendidly for the championship. Neither led by more than two points at any time throughout the deciding set until the close, when Mr. R. Ayling managed to score rapidly after an excellent rally. The two players were exponents of entirely opposite styles—the back-hand and the "scoop." Many were inclined to believe the better player lost. Mr. Baker certainly played the more showy and brilliant game, of which judicious placing was the strongest point; but the steady, cautious play of his opponent told in the end. It is a curious coincidence that neither of the "final" players is a lawn-tennis player. Until this tournament was organised I had no idea the game had such a hold on the public. There were nearly fifty ladies competing, and the Aquarium management are to be congratulated on the success of the venture. Another tournament is being arranged at the Aquarium for Jan. 8-11. Mr. Robert Newman announces a Ping-Pong Tournament in the Queen's Hall on Dec. 26 and following afternoons from 1 till 7 p.m. each day—ladies' competitions being from 1 till 4 p.m., and gentlemen's from 4 till 7 p.m. Entries close on Dec. 24. Full particulars can be obtained at Queen's Hall.

A girl correspondent writes: "I am tired of the ugly flannel shirt with its box-pleats and its tube-like sleeves, which are nearly always too short." I am glad to be able to comfort my young friend by telling her that this winter there is an improvement in the flannel shirt. I have seen some pretty ones at Redmayne's, and no doubt they can be bought at other shops also. My correspondent could have flannel made up by herself, or by her own dressmaker, after the pattern of some pretty blouse that she likes and that suits her figure. The very ugly flannel shirt has been so sought after by cycling women that it has become a fixture in the shops, although why a woman should care to make a guy of herself when she is cycling I cannot understand. A garment of any kind may as well be pretty as ugly. A lady writes to me: "I have a large cupboard in my bed-room, and it has a queer earthy sort of smell—what is the matter with it?" I should say want of air is the matter, and want of cleaning out. Even a room which is not aired, and rarely cleaned, will smell disagreeably. Why not a cupboard, in which there are no windows? The architect of the future, especially if he has a wife with a little useful knowledge in her head, will see to it that all cupboards have ventilation in them. Clothes which hang in an unventilated cupboard will get a musty, fusty smell. They should be taken out and aired, and shaken very often, and the cupboard should be thoroughly well cleaned.

The following pretty verses from Winifred E. Heard are very appropriate for the season—

Round the Fire.

Oh, the merry, merry party, where the ingleside's aglow
With the leaping, laughing flames that rise and fall with gleam and glow;
Oh, the eager little faces—those who watch the smiling band
Remember all their early youth and the tales of fairyland.

Gleaming bowls of rowan berries fill the mantel overhead,
Smiling on the fireside faces, pictures of the happy dead,
Seeming, as the flickering firelight sheds o'er them its rosy gleams,
That they all have living faces sharing in the children's dreams.

Oaken rafters ring with gladness as the children's voices rise:
This old hall, at eve, seems always little children's paradise.
When drear evenings make long shadows in the orchard where they play,
Then, with blossoms they have gathered, they will make the old hall gay.

Bonny blooms the sturdy dairy, sweet-hued flower of Michaelmas,
Feathery-fringed sweet chrysanthemum fill the bowls of gleaming glass;
Then the sweet-voiced sister leads them, each and all by willing hand,
Youth and maid and fair-faced baby, to the realms of fairyland.

It is expected—why, I do not know—that this is to be a great year for parties for the young people, and already careful mothers are preparing frocks for the girls who will so soon—before these lines are in print—be

Home for the Holidays.

White China silk, trimmed simply with light lace, seems to be the favourite material for the dancing-dress for girls of from fourteen to seventeen. At eighteen the girl's skirt reaches the ground, and is slightly trained; before that magic age the feet, in their pretty bronze shoes, can still be seen. Nothing is prettier than white or cream for the young girl, but I have seen some charming frocks in pale shades of fine nun's veiling trimmed with cream or white lace, but I think that China silk is more in favour this year than either veiling or Pongee. It is impossible to say why one material is more worn one year than another. A correspondent writes to ask if a girl of "seventeen next birthday" should have her hair up when she goes to a dance? I do not think so; not even if it is a grown up affair, at which girls of seventeen sometimes appear for a treat. Seventeen is very young, and it is a pity for a girl to appear

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Wife (from the window, at 1 a.m., to tipsy husband): "Well, what's your excuse for coming home at this hour?"

Husband: "Let me in, M'ria. Just come from the meeting of the Labour Union. Been considering what we'd do about the recent strike."

Wife: "Well, you just sit down on the doorstep and consider what you'll do about the recent lock-out."

"Jimmy, Sammy says you had more caramels than the rest of the children."

"Well, ma, I saw they wouldn't go round again, an' so I jes' had to eat 'em."

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SUNLIGHT SOAP
Adds to the Pleasures of Home.

SUNLIGHT SOAP
Preserves the Clothes.

grown up until she is eighteen, or even twenty if she looks girlish; and if the hair is pretty and fluffy or wavy it looks charming down. If it is put up it should not be fashionably dressed, but just loosely coiled low on the neck, or high on the head, whichever style is the most becoming. What about toys and games for the little folks? They (the toys) are prettier than ever this year, I think. A visit should certainly be paid to the Children's Exhibition

At the Crystal Palace,

described in our last issue: it is indeed a wonderful show. Then, again, almost all the large shops, such as Gamage's, Hobbies, Limited, or Samuel's, of Market Street, Manchester, are well to the front. If presents of jewellery, plate, watches, or clocks are desired, I should advise my readers to send at once to

W. E. Watts and Co., Limited,

Whitminster Works, Bristol, for their two new illustrated catalogues, one of which is crammed full of all the most fetching articles at very reasonable prices; the other is devoted entirely to clocks, and is a work of art. It would be difficult indeed to find a more comprehensive assortment of pretty things.

J. M. Draper,

of Higher Audley Street, Blackburn, also send me a well-illustrated catalogue of their celebrated organettes and other presents, which is well worth perusal.

I must now wish all my kind readers, whom I am proud to call friends, all over the world

A Happy, Peaceful Christmas!

If they have cause for grief, may they have near at hand sympathy and kindness, and may the peace of God descend upon their hearts and lives! There is nothing like it to help us to bear the trials of life, and in the words of "dear Tiny Tim"—see "The Christmas Carol"—I say heartily, "God bless us all!"

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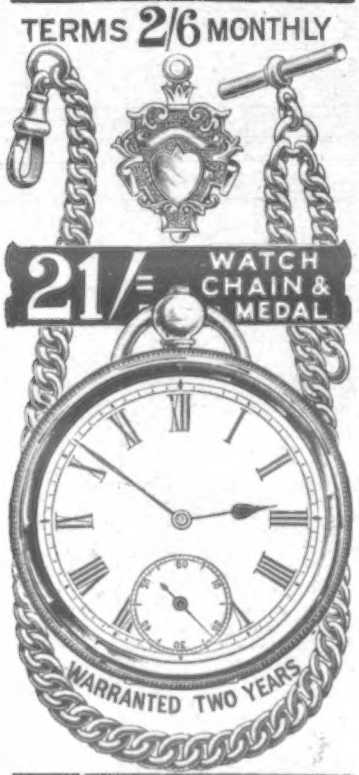

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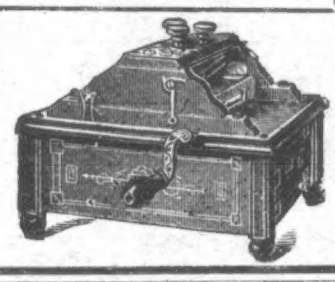

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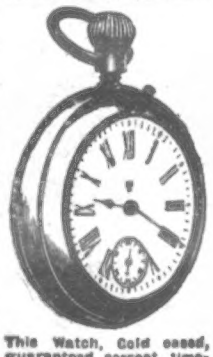

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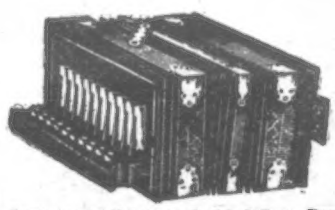

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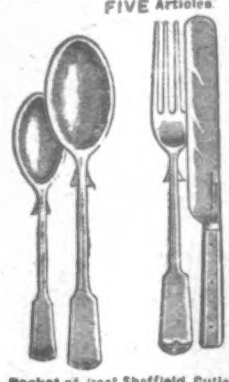

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